

DISCLOSURE DIVISION

☐ WAIVER REQUEST
☐ ANSWER
☒ RECONSIDERATION REQUEST
☐ UNTIMELY

DATE: 7/2/2021

DOCKET #: 21-088

Ashley Wimberley, Director
Disclosure Division

FILER INFORMATION

Name: Rodneya Melene' Hart
Address: 926 Rittiner Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806
Office/Position: State Arts Council
of Disclosures/Amendments Filed with Agency: 3
Years Covered: 2017-2019
Final Report: No (Final Year 2019)

REPORT INFORMATION

Name of Report: Tier 2.1 Annual Personal Financial Disclosure covering calendar year 2018
Report ID: PFD20001232
Original Due Date: 5/15/2019
NOD Received: 1/15/2020 - Signed by Phillip Hart
PFD/Answer Due Date based on NOD: 1/27/2020
PFD/Answer Filed: 2/27/2020

LATE FEE INFORMATION

Amount of Late Fee: \$1500
Days late from receipt of NOD: 31
Total days late from initial due date: 288
Late Fee Order Received: 3/14/2020
Payment/Waiver Request Due Date: 7/6/2020 (Covid-19 Extension)
Waiver Request Received: 1/11/2021
Board Result: 4/9/2021
Reconsideration Request Due Date: 5/9/2021
Reconsideration Request Received: 5/1/2021

COMMENTS: Rodneya Hart is requesting a Reconsideration. She stated a tree fell on her home on 7/7/2018, and she lost most of the paperwork during the repair. They were living in a hotel for 4 months during the repairs. She withdrew from graduate school and experienced other trauma that led to being medicated for depression. She is the financial provider for her household, as her husband is disabled. In October 2018, she lost her job and was interviewing for out of state jobs. She began new employment on 1/2/2019, while still being a member of the LA State Arts Council. After starting her new job, she didn't have the time off to attend the Art Council meetings. She resigned from the council on 11/7/2019 and did not realize she still needed to file PFD statement. Her husband, usually takes care of the taxes in a timely fashion. He did not complete the 2018 taxes until 11/20/2019, as he is disabled, and she have had to take on tasks he historically would complete without her.

OTHER LATE FEE INFORMATION

Disclosure Statements:

- Other Outstanding Statements: No
- Other Outstanding Late Fees: No
- Prior Late Fees: Yes 2019 - \$1500 Suspended
- Reassessed Late Fees: No

Campaign Finance:

- Outstanding Late Fees: No
- Prior Late Fees: No

No. 70200640000107316399

5/1/2021

To Who It May Concern

Tracy M. Barker & Board of Ethics et al:

These are the series of extenuating circumstances that predicated my early departure from the LSAC. Mostly three contributing factors, disabled husband, and traumatic and meaningful life events contributed to my tardiness timeline.

A tree Fell on the house, July 7, 2018. There may have been papwerwork that I shoud lhave kept up with but much was lost in the repair. We were out of our home and living in a hotel for 4 months. At this time I was suppoed to be starting graduate school but had to withdraw. I experinaced other personal trauma that led to being medicated for depression.

I am the breadwinner for my household. My husband is disabled.

Then in October 2018, I lost my job. I had to scrable to find another position. Worked full time with a nonprofit that ended up not working out. I had job interviews in Cincinnatti and Pittsburg hoping that we can find something that would pay the bills.

In August I started intevelwing for the position as Division Director at Capitol Park Museum under the DCRT office of State Museums. There were 3 additional interviews that later lead to my start date of January 2, 2019. I was still a member of the Louisiana State Arts Council at that point.

Soon after I started the position, we had an LSAC meeting. I was not given the time off by my supervisor to attend, I had just started this job and did not have any time saved, so I missed the meeting. When I talked to Cheryl Castille about this, she said she would speak with Julie Sampson about the importance of allowing me to attend the quarterly meetings and remain active with the council.

This was an ongoing conversation where Cheryl, Kristen, and I were supposed to speak with my supervisor about my attendance, but it did not come to fruition. Eventually, I told Cheryl that I would leave the council because I could not pull my weight in attendance and did not want to be an unreliable member. This conversation occurred around June. She asked me to hold off from withdrawing. Nothing changed in the coming months. On 11/7/2019, I officially resigned from the council and thought all of my responsibilties in association with it would also go away.

My husband, Phillip Hart, usually takes care of the taxes in a timely fashion. He did not complete the 2018 taxes in 2019. He is disabled, and I have had to take on tasks he historically met without me. Through the depression and physical pain, he cannot reliably pay the bills on time, complete most household tasks, and now we are outsourcing the taxes.

- o We did finally file our 2018 taxes on 11/20/2019

Please consider these things in assessing a possible waiver for the fee and reinstatement of good standing with the State.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Rodneya Hart



ETHICS BOARD REC'D
MAY 5 '21 PM 12:59